

## Message Text

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70

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 ARA-16 EUR-25 EB-11 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 NSC-10 SS-15 H-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FDRE-00 HEW-08

AGR-20 /180 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:CLDARIS:RCB

8/21/73 X-20842

APPROVED BY AF/W:ORAGGREY

AID/AFR/CWR/SDE:HFARNHAM (SUBS)

AID/OPA/PUB:JROSENTHAL (SUBS)

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P 212010Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, NG

SUBJECT: ROWAN ARTICLE ON US ASSISTANCE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CARL ROWAN'S ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED  
IN STAR-NEWS AUGUST 17:

BEGIN TEXT: THE GRIM SUFFERING AND DEATH BROUGHT ON BY  
THE WEST AFRICAN DROUGHT HAS RAISED ANEW SOME DISTURBING  
QUESTIONS ABOUT "FOREIGN AID" AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN  
THE WORLD'S RICH NATIONS AND ITS POOR ONES.

THE FIVE NATIONS HARDEST HIT BY FIVE YEARS OF ABOMINABLE  
WEATHER WERE ALREADY AMONG THE POOREST IN THE WORLD. THE  
IRONY IS THAT A LOT OF THE EUROPEANS AND NORTH AMERICANS  
IN CHARGE OF DOLING OUT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ARE CONFIRMED  
BELIEVERS THAT SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES ARE TOO POOR TO  
HELP. SOME EVEN PRIVATELY EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT THOSE  
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SMALL NATIONS WHICH ARE BEREFT OF MEANINGFUL RESOURCES

OUGHT TO GIVE UP PRETENSES AT BEING SEPARATE COUNTRIES.

MANY AFRICAN OFFICIALS REPLY BITTERLY THAT A LOT OF "OLD-FASHIONED RACISM" IS BEHIND SUCH VIEWS, JUST AS THEY BELIEVE THAT IT IS RACISM THAT MAKES IT BEYOND HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD EVER FINANCE FOR AFRICA THE SAME KIND OF MARSHALL PLAN THAT IT FINANCED FOR POSTWAR EUROPE.

NIGER'S PRESIDENT HAMANI DIORI, ONE OF THE ABLEST LEADERS THAT I HAVE MET ANYWHERE, WAS CLEARLY OFFENDED AS HE TOLD ME THAT THREE MONTHS AGO HE WROTE TO THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO REQUEST 30,000 TONS OF IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY GRAIN AND FOR A U.S. COMMITMENT TO SET ASIDE 150,000 TONS FOR NEXT YEAR SHOULD THE SEPTEMBER HARVEST PROVE INADEQUATE, BUT NO ONE HAD ANSWERED HIS LETTER.

MAURICE J. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT NIXON'S SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF TO SUB-SAHARA AFRICA, ADMITS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT GOOFED IN NOT RESPONDING CLEARLY AND PROMPTLY TO THE NIGER REQUEST AND ASSERTS THAT AN APOLOGY MUST GO TO PRESIDENT DIORI.

IT IS THIS KIND OF BONER THAT SWEEPS AWAY THE GOODWILL THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE ACCRUE FROM WHAT HAS BEEN A GENERALLY LAUDABLE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORT.

IN MALI, OFFICIALS MADE IT CLEAR THAT GRAIN FLOWN INTO TIMBUKTU AND GAO ON U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES WAS ALL THAT SAVED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM DEATH. NIGER HAS RECEIVED 61,000 TONS OF THE 256,000 METRIC TONS OF GRAIN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTRIBUTED.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS GIVEN A TOTAL OF \$125 MILLION IN AID TO THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN SAHEL REGION COUNTRIES SO FAR, WITH THE LARGEST SHARE (\$42 MILLION) GIVEN BY THE UNITED STATES. BUT OFFICIALS IN BOTH MALI AND NIGER INSIST THAT THIS IS FAR FROM ADEQUATE. THE FOODS AND MEDICINES COMING INTO WEST AFRICA DO NOT PROVIDE EITHER NUTRITION OR HEALTH; THEY BARELY STAVE OFF MASS UNCLASSIFIED

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FAMINE AND WIDESPREAD EPIDEMICS.

SOME OBSERVERS SAY THE FIGHT AGAINST FAMINE COULD GO ON FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS. BUT THERE IS DOUBT THAT THE DONOR NATIONS WILL MAINTAIN EVEN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR SO LONG A TIME, LET ALONE DEAL WITH THE LONG-RANGE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THESE COUNTRIES.

SOME NIGER OFFICIALS SAY ACIDLY THAT THE AMERICANS MEAN  
GIVE THE MOST AID TO COUNTRIES POSSESSING SOMETHING THE  
U.S. WANTS. THEY ARE CERTAIN THAT IF U.S. COMPANIES  
SUCCEED IN THEIR COSTLY SEARCH FOR OIL BENEATH THE DESERTS  
OF NIGER, THIS LITTLE COUNTRY WILL SUDDENLY LEAP ONTO THE  
LIST OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO WHICH UNCLE SAM GIVES  
PRIORITY.

UNLESS AND UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, EMERGENCY BAND-AIDS ARE  
ABOUT ALL NIGER EXPECTS AND IS LIKELY TO GET. WHICH MEANS

THAT EVEN WITH THE END OF THE DROUGHT, HUNGER, MISERY,  
SICKNESS WILL STILL BE A CHRONIC FEATURE OF LIFE IN THESE  
COUNTRIES THAT LIE AT THE MERCY OF NATURE AT THE FOOT OF  
THE CRUEL SAHARA. END TEXT. ROGERS

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